

Direct tax income

629. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the budget estimates and a total direct taxes income form 2001-02 to 2005-06, year-wise;

(b) the budget estimates and a total indirect taxes income from 2001-02 to 2005-06, year wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that actual and indirect taxes income has been more than the budget estimates; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to bring down rates of indirect taxes on such items which directly affect common man, in the ensuing budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The budget estimates and actual collections of direct taxes for the period from 2001-02 to 2005-06 are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Financial Year	Budget Estimate	Actual Collections
2001-02	84800	69198
2002-03	91140	83088
2003-04	95569	105088
2004-05	139365	132771
2005-06	176812	165208

(b) The budget estimates and actual collections of indirect taxes for the period from 2001-02 to 2005-06 are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Finance Year	Budget Estimates	Actual Collections
2001-02	140992	117318
2002-03	143702	132608
2003-04	155256	148600
2004-05	177599	170936
2005-06(Prov.)	192215	201059

(c) So far as direct taxes are concerned, the actual collections have exceeded budget estimates during the year 2003-04 whereas in respect of indirect taxes the same have exceeded the budget estimates during the year 2005-06.

(d) Such matters are considered during the Budgetary exercise and Government's response is reflected in the Annual Union Budget.

Low interest rate on farm loans

630. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for lowering the interest rate on farm loans to 4 per cent in view of the precarious condition of the farmers particularly the small land holders in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government consider lowering the interest rates on farm loans; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Till March 2006, Public Sector Banks and RRBs were providing short term credit (STC) to small and marginal farmers at annual rates of interest of around 9% whereas the rates charged by cooperative credit structure ranged from 9% to 15% across the country. However, the Government of India provided Rs. 1700 crore by way of interest subvention to all the banks for crediting back to the farmers account an amount equivalent to 2% of the interest charged for Kharif and Rabi 2005-06 thereby reducing the interest burden of the farmers on their STC by 2%. Further, to provide short-term credit to the farmers at a rate of interest of 7% p.a. upto a principal amount of Rs. 3 lacs for Kharif and Rabi 2006-07, Government has decided to provide interest subvention of 2% p.a. to Public Sector Banks, RRBs and Cooperative Banks on the amount of STC provided from their own resources. Additionally to augment the STC lending, NABARD is providing enhanced refinance to the RRBs and Coop. Banks at concessional rates of interest of 4.5% and 2.5% p.a. respectively.